

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-07 ISO-00 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10
OIC-02 CU-02 AGRE-00 DOTE-00 HEW-04 HUD-01 INT-05
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 ERDA-05 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01
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R 120230Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2032
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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NAIROBI FOR USDEL TO UNEP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, ESCAP
SUBJECT: ESCAP MEETING ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

1. REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS HAS PROVED
PEDESTRIAN AND UNEVENTFUL. THE MOST VOCAL OF THE TWO DO-
MINATING GROUPS ARE THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT FOLLOWED BY THE
PACIFIC. LESSER ACTIVISTS INCLUDE IRAN AND INDONESIA.

2. SOVIET GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT WAS STANDARD FARE WITH
EMPHASIS ON ADVANTAGES PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF LAND. RUSSIAN
DELEGATE ALSO MADE RATHER EXTENSIVE EXTEMPORANEOUS TOUR D'
HORIZON INTERVENTION OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, DEALING WITH URBAN
MIGRATION, UNIVERSALITY OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROBLEMS AND
COMPLEXITY THEREOF..

3. AUSTRALIANS, IN A STATEMENT PROPOSING CREATION OF A TASK
FORCE(INTERGOVERNMENTAL) TO EXAMINE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS QUESTION
FOR THE REGION, TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO TOUCH UPON PRIVATE
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SECTOR ADVANTAGES. WE INTERVENED ON SAME QUESTIONS AND CONFERENCE
REPORT SHOULD REFLECT BALANCED STATEMENT ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
INTERRELATIONSHIPS.

4. IRANIANS PROPOSED THAT PRIOR TO CONVENING TASK FORCE,
ESCAP SHOULD PREPARE A QUESTIONNAIRE TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS
ASKING EACH TO IDENTIFY NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PRIORITIES AND

HOW COUNTRY PERCEIVES NEED FOR REGIONAL ASSISTANCE. TASK FORCE QUESTION WILL BE FURTHER EXAMINED IN LAST DAYS OF CONFERENCE, BUT AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, INTENTION IS TO INCLUDE ALL MEMBERS OF THE REGION, AND IF IRANIAN PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED, TASK FORCE WILL HAVE FACT BASE ON WHICH TO PROCEED WITH ITS WORK. (U.S. PROPOSED THAT IF CONFERENCE CHOOSES TO RECOMMEND ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE, IT SHOULD HAVE THE CLEAREST TERMS OF REFERENCE POSSIBLE). WE DO NOT SEE ANY DIFFICULTY WITH TASK FORCE PROPOSAL AND INTEND TO SUPPORT IT.

5. MOST OF UN AGENCIES MADE STATEMENTS WITH UN HABITAT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE (UNEP DELEGATE) DELIVERING AN EXTENSIVE ONE. IT EMBODIED A COMPLETE RUNDOWN OF ALL OF THE PROJECTS THE FOUNDATION HAS PERFORMED IN THE REGION. DURING GENERAL DEBATE, SEVERAL RECIPIENT DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED QUOTE APPRECIATION UNQUOTE TO THE FOUNDATION AND UNEP FOR THEIR EFFORTS. WHETHER THIS REFLECTS AN EFFORT BY THE UNEP/FOUNDATION FORCES TO ORCHESTRATE A CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION SUPPORTING THE NAIROBI SOLUTION IS NOT CLEAR.

6. WITH REGARD TO ENVIRONMENT, SOME OF THE DELEGATIONS MADE PASSIVE REFERENCES TO THE FACT THAT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS ARE A LUXURY COUNTRIES AS POOR AS THEY CANNOT AFFORD.

7. INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE TAKEN UP LATER IN THE WEEK.

WHITEHOUSE

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